

Luther Pearson House
6 Thayer Street
Providence
Providence County
Rhode Island

HABS No. RI-183

HABS
RI,
4-PROV,
83-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

LUTHER PEARSON HOUSE

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RI,
4-PROV,
83-

Address: 6 Thayer Street, Providence, Providence County,
Rhode Island.

PLAT 16, LOT 354

Present Owner
and Occupant: Mr. and Mrs. Edward O. Handy, Jr.

Present Use: Dwelling

Brief Statement
of Significance: This is one of three small houses built close to-
gether on Thayer Street between about 1817 and
1830, and is an example of the simpler houses of
that period.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners:

- 1795 Elizabeth Cozzens sells a tract of land to Daniel Tillinghast bounded: S/ly 113-1/2' by Transit Street; E/ly 88' by Samuel Wilkie; N/ly 113-1/2' by heirs of Chris. Arnold; W/ly 88' by Thomas Thayer. . . . Deed Book 24, page 96, in Providence City Hall.
- 1802 Daniel Tillinghast sells this property to Calvin Walker housewright. . . . Deed Book 28, page 317, in Providence City Hall.
- 1817 Calvin Walker sells property to Harding Stoddard, blacksmith, for \$200. . . . Deed Book 46, page 5, in Providence City Hall.
- 1825 Harding Stoddard sells property to Luther Pearson, merchant, Bounded: S/ly 48' on Transit Street; E/ly 88' by Thayer Street (recently laid out); N/ly 48' by Samuel Pearson and John Fisher; W/ly 88' by land of Thomas Thayer. . . . Deed Book 47, page 223, in Providence City Hall.
- 1829 Luther Pearson sells to Riley Brown this same property "together with dwelling house" for \$650. . . . Deed Book 58, page 142, in Providence City Hall.

- 1840 Riley Brown, house carpenter, sells to George L. Brown, mariner, property bounded; S/ly 48' by John Crocker; N/ly 48' by William Nichols; W/ly 32' by widow Chafee; E/ly 32' by Thayer Street. . . . Deed Book 76, page 168, in Providence City Hall.
- 1854 Property taxed to George L. Brown. . . . Tax Book in Providence City Hall.
- 1875 Property taxed to Edwin Brown Estate. . . . Providence City Hall.
- 1894 William Haskins and wife, Juliette, and Horace and Catherine Simmons to Fred H. Read same property. . . . Deed Book 391, page 173, in Providence City Hall.
- 1896 Property taxed to Fred H. Read.
- 1956 Property owned by E. O. Handy and wife, Susan.
2. Date of erection: Between 1825 and 1829.

Prepared by Antoinette F. Downing and Elvira Gowdey
for the Providence Preservation Society
December 1961.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: This is a very small, one-and-a-half-story, gable roofed, frame house, set end to the street. It is the middle house of a group of three small, simple houses, built close together, including also the Riley Brown House at 2 Thayer (in HABS) and number 10 Thayer.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Overall dimensions: Small rectangular house, about 20' x 30' (five-bay front), one-and-a-half stories, facing south with east end to street.
2. Foundations: Fieldstone, plastered.

3. Wall construction: Timber frame, plank walls, clapboards, corner boards with beaded edge.
4. Stoops: Entrance stoop, two large blocks of stone.
5. Chimneys: Central brick chimney.
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Four-panel front door, top light, simple doorway with paneled pilasters.
 - b. Windows: Six over six light double hung windows on first floor, twelve over eight light double hung windows in gable ends on second floor.
7. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Gable, shingles.
 - b. Cornice: Molded horizontal cornice, returned slightly at corners, beaded barge boards.

C. Technical Description of Interior

1. Floor plans: Center chimney, five-room plan facing south with east end to street.
2. Stairways: L-shape, winding stair opposite entrance against chimney.
3. Floors: Board floors, average 5" - 7" widths.
4. Doors and doorways: Four-panel doors, simple molded, mitered architraves.
5. Trim: Molded, mitred window frames similar to doorways. Chair rail in dining room, southwest room, apparently later.
6. Hardware: One door with brass hardware, one with iron, front door has porcelain knob.
7. Lighting: Electric.
8. Heating: Central hot air. Two original fireplaces, one-story wood mantel in southeast parlor, paneled pilasters and entablatures, molded mantel shelf.

D. Site

1. Orientation: Small lot, east end on sidewalk, small yard on south and west sides.
2. Enclosures: Board fence on east end of yard.
3. Walks: Brick
4. Landscaping: Small informal yard with terrace on west.

Prepared by Osmund R. Overby, Architect
National Park Service
December 1961